Provident Fund arrears against exempted establishments

116. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of arrears by the exempted establishments towards provident fund at the end of 1986;

(b) how much of the amount has been in arrears for more than one year and what action is being taken against such erring establishments: and

(c) whether Government are con templating any changes in the proce dure of payment of provident fund amount *to* retired employees in time, for reducing arrears and for increas ing efficiency into the Provident Fund Organisation; if so, what are the de tails thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A SANGMA): (a) and (b) According to available information, a sum of about Rs. 103.76 crores was outstanding against the exempted establishments as on 30-9-86, out of which aBout Rs. 79.53 crores was in arrears for more than one year;

The EPF authorities have been generally taking following action against the defaulting establishments:

(i) Prosecutions are filed under ection 14 (2A) of the EPF Act; (ii) Complaints are filed under section 406/409 IPC for non-payment of employees' share of contribution deducted from the wages of the employees but not deposited;

(iii) Action is taken to cancel the exemption in respect of persistent defaulters.

(c) Yes, Sir. Steps are being taken to computerise the work relating to maintenance of provident fund accounts in a phased manner. This is likely to improve the efficiency of the organisation and ensure timely settlement of provident fund claims of outgoing members. The legal and penal provisions of the Act are proposed to be made more stringent, so as to check the defaults.

Freedom Fighters' pension cases

117, SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gov ernment assured that all pending cases of pensions of freedom fighters under the Swatantrata Sainit Saaman Scheme would be finalised by the 15th August, 1986;

(b) whetner such cases are still pending; if so, what is the number of such cases, State-wise and the likely period by which the cases will be dis posed of and pension granted; and.

(c) how many cases have bean re ferred by MPs from different States and those recommended by State Governments and whether the Minis try attaches importance to such re ferences and recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) In reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 102 replied on 24-7-86, it was stated that all pending applications for freedom fighters pension re-ceived in time i.e. before 31-3-1986 would be finalised by 15-8-1986 in a special drive. Cases of exceptional marginal nature or cases having special features were to be taken up after the drive. Cases that required scrutiny by special screening committee (Hyd. Committee arid Arya Samaj Committee) -were necessarily to be decided only after views of the Committees are knbwn with reference to each case.

(b) The cases scheduled to be finalised by 15-8-86 were finalised by that date. However, 5100 cases that are marginal/exceptional in nature and that require screening by special committees are pending and are given in

the State-wise list attached as Statement (See below). AH efforts are being made to clear these cases early.

(c) Due importance is given to recommendations made by Members of Parliment and State Governments. Generally, the cases are sanctioned only on the recomrrsendations/verifica-tion reports of the State Governments. However, no separate lists have been maintained of cases recommended by Members of Parliament and State Governments.

Statement

Total number of applications pending as on 31-1-1987

(i) Committee Cases :

(n) Hyderabad Screening Committee cases (received in time) 2927

(b) Arya Samaj Committee cases : 992

(ii) Cases of special nature other than Committee cases 1181

TOTAL 5100

State-wise break up	
1. Andhra Pradesh	97
2. Assam	45
3. Bihar	637
4. Gujarat	4
5. Karnataka	1
6. Kerala	19
7. Madhya Pradesh	148
8. Maharashtra	89
9. Meghalaya	2
10. Tamil Nadu	2
11. Tripura	7
12. West Bengal	55
13. Chandigarh	2
14. Delhi	9
15. Goa	61
16. Pondicherry	3
	1181

Child Labour

118. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of working children in the country as on the 31st December, 1986;

(b) whether Government have formulated, a nat:onal child labour policy and a concrete action plan for working chil'd-ren; and

(c) if so, what are the salient features of this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) According to the Planning Commission, the number of working children in the country as in March, 1985 was 17.58 million. The information regarding the number of work'ng children as on 31-12-86 is not available.

(b) and (c) The National Child Labour policy is being formulated by the Government.

Development of Tourist spots in Orissa

119. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop certain places of tourist attraction in Orissa as tourist resorts;

(b) if so, what are the names of the places identified for the purpose; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House *(See* below).

(c) Does not arise.